

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Commission**

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**ITEM**

**13**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

**Contract – Iowa State University – CARD  
Economic impacts associated with additional investments in natural  
resources**

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The Department requests Commission approval of a contract in the amount of \$30,000 with the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) at Iowa State University to complete a report detailing:

- a) the economic impacts and social benefits associated with the current inventory of natural resource amenities and current usage pattern of them in Iowa; and
- b) an assessment of the economic impacts and social benefits of \$150 million of increased annual investment in natural resource enhancements in Iowa.

The report will support the work of the Legislative Interim Committee, as recommended by the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee, as it gathers information to evaluate the benefits of investing additional funds in Iowa's natural resources. The Legislative Interim Committee approved the need for the report and agreed to seek reimbursement to the DNR from the Legislative Council for the cost of the report, which is pending approval.

The Department selected CARD, a governmental entity through Iowa State University, because it is both a qualified and trusted entity to perform the work and has familiarity with the data and subject matter due to its prior work with the Department on earlier phases of this project.

Ken Herring, Administrator  
Conservation Recreation Division

September 13, 2007